

THE SCROLL

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O'GORMAN HIGH SCHOOL | SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

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Falling prices bring savings at gas pump

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

Recently gas prices have been lower than in past years, falling below \$2 per gallon. This price decline has not gone unnoticed by drivers.

"I've been putting the money I saved on gas into my college savings," said senior Elizabeth Wehrkamp.

While only 25 percent of students who were surveyed said that they paid for their own gas, over 80 percent said that they felt positively impacted by the low gas prices.

"I'm just glad that prices are a little lower even if it is only for a while because it can make everyone's lives a little easier," said senior Maddie Loger.

While drivers might enjoy the

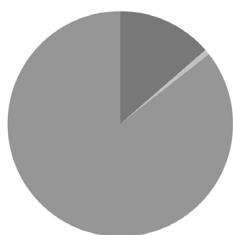
low oil prices, farmers are not quite as happy. Ethanol plants are less profitable now, and the price of corn was already low this year.

"Buy as much ethanol as you can legally put in your car," said Ron Lamberty, the Vice President of the American Coalition for Ethanol. "Your neighbors make it, and they will spend the money they make at stores. That will require those stores to hire more people, making more jobs available."

Lamberty also owns a gas station. He said that gas sales have increased, though not considerably.

"Typically, when gas prices are lower, people spend more money inside the store, and that is where convenience stores make their best profits," said Lamberty.

Does your family plan on travelling more, less or the same as last year based on gas prices?



■ More
■ Less
■ Same



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A group of senior boys enjoy staking at the IcePlex. Sixteen of the school's advisories visited the new SCHEELS IcePlex on Jan. 16.

Magazine drive incentive boosts sales, brings fun

Nate Sotebeer
Staff Writer

Big changes came to the top incentive winners for this year's magazine drive at O'Gorman High School. Sixteen advisories won the prize of skating at the new SCHEELS IcePlex.

This development came from a desire to keep the student body engaged in the fundraiser.

"We always try to keep it fresh and do new things," said theology teacher Michelle Shields. "Because they already

get pizza every day in the cafeteria we wanted to do something different."

Students responded well to the new prize and used the incentive to work harder.

"It gave us a different opportunity that we don't usually have," said senior Mikayla Kappenman. "It was nice to get out of school for a few hours and spend time with friends."

At the IcePlex, winners were given the opportunity to ice skate, play broomball and socialize with friends. These op-

portunities allowed everyone to enjoy their time, even if they did not wish to skate.

"It was a time of socialization away from school," said Shields. "They also could be on their phones."

The unique setting allowed for many different activities to take place, allowing students to choose how they exercised this free time.

"I thought it would be fun to try a new experience," said Moe. "I was able to accomplish this while playing cards."

Online classroom teaching broadens horizons, gives teachers fresh approach

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

As technology becomes a bigger part of everyday life, the education students receive must adapt to the digital age as well. That's why some O'Gorman teachers are piloting Google classroom.

The decision was made by a technology exploration committee that the use of Google Classroom may be beneficial. To test this, they selected some classes to use Google Classroom but only on a trial basis.

"We are looking at implementing a learning management system (LMS). It would be a one-stop shop for students," said Mr. Ed Whiting, one of the members of the committee.

Whiting and Ms. Michelle Shields were the two teachers selected to use Google Classroom on a trial basis. Students in some of their classes such as World History, AP Psychology and Advanced Theological Seminar were allowed to try the system.

"We have only used Google Classroom a couple of times in the classroom, but so far students have been favorable to it," said Shields. "I think using the computers in class provides for greater student engagement, and I hope that they will find it an effective way to communicate with the teacher and other students."

The school plans on continue using their current Infinite Campus system while using Google Classroom alongside

New group addresses body image, seeks to educate on healthy lifestyle

Samantha Lenz
Opinion Editor

Positive body image is a topic discussed throughout all high schools in America. O'Gorman High School has decided to take action themselves, by creating a task force that will work on educating and promoting healthy awareness of self.

"I think everyone has times in their lives when they doubt their self-image," said counselor Kelly Jones. "All people will feel better about themselves and therefore treat others better. It is so much deeper than 'I'm so fat.'"

This will not be a support group, but instead a

task force that desires to bring awareness to having a healthy and positive image of self.

"This is an important issue to address in high school, especially with all the other pressures that will come in college."
- Josie Johnson

"My vision is to do education on nutrition and exercise to maintain a healthy lifestyle and all around healthy person," said Jones.

Jones also said individuals should seek positive feedback when struggling with body image.

"Ask for help. Talk to someone," said Jones. "Do things that make them feel good about themselves. I think just as many guys have doubts, but it is not as socially acceptable or open as the girls."

Students will be involved with this task force, working to help their fellow students better themselves.

"This is an important issue to address in high school, especially with all the other pressures that will come in college," said junior Josie Johnson.

Diocese celebrates Catholic schools, demonstrates unity

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

Every year schools from across the nation join in celebrating Catholic Schools Week with masses, events and activities for students, families and parishioners. Through these events schools focus on the value a Catholic education has for students and the community.

“By promoting Gospel values and being a part of the faith formation of students, Catholic schools do so much more than just prepare students academically for success after high school,” said O’Gorman Assistant Principal Joan Mahoney. “These students then go on to become faith-filled leaders in the community who look to serve a larger purpose than just their own personal interests.”

This year’s Catholic Schools week was kicked off a week early on Wednesday, Jan. 21 with an all Diocese Mass commemorating the 125th anniversary of the Sioux Falls Diocese.

The Mass, held at the Sioux Falls Arena, is the first time that all the Catholic schools in the diocese have come together for Catholic Schools Week.

The following week allowed the students of O’Gorman to participate in the celebration

“Catholic schools do so more than just prepare students academically for success after high school.”
- Joan Mahoney

through biblical-themed dress down days and after school events.

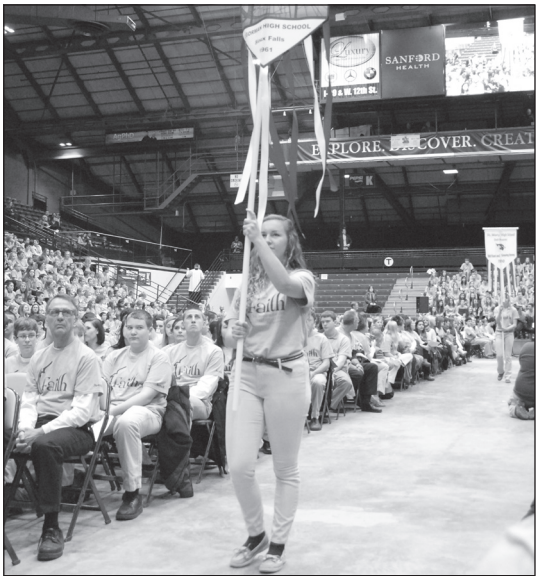
While these activities are a fun way to get students involved, they also serve as a reminder of the great privilege it is to receive a Catholic education.

“Most students do not get to celebrate weekly Mass at school or say a prayer right before the Pledge Of Allegiance, but in our schools we can profess our faith in so many capacities,” said senior Katie Kunkel. “This week is a chance to come together in unity and be grateful for an education system that allows us to bring God into our studies.”

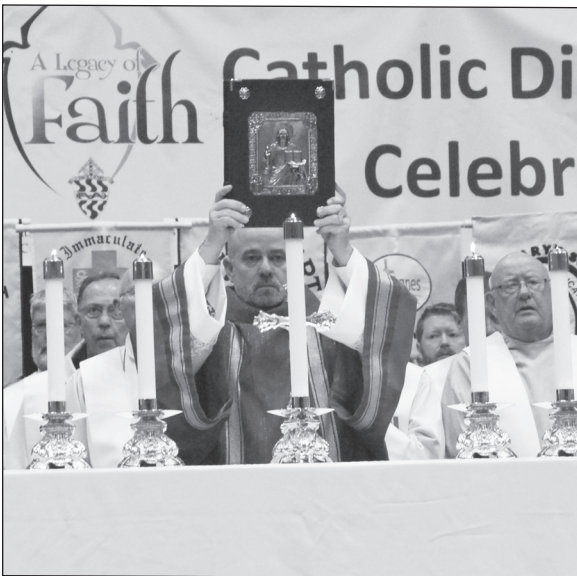
Whether it is spending time in the chapel during the day or attending school Mass on Wednesday, O’Gorman students have opportunities every day to live out their faith. Catholic schools week is a way to show appreciation for this privilege.



Bishop Paul Swain celebrates Catholic Schools Mass with the diocese. Mass took place at the Sioux Falls Arena on Jan. 21.



Senior Katie Kunkel carries in the banner for O’Gorman High School.



Priests from across the diocese showed solidarity by participating in the Catholic Schools Mass.

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Campus Ministry Events and Christian Service

Thursday mornings - Endow and Guy’s Group

Feb. 10 - Campus Ministry Core Team meeting

Feb. 24 - Campus Ministry Core Team meeting

Feb. 24 - Feeding South Dakota

Feb. 25 - FCA night

Feb. 26 - Serving dinner at the Banquet

March 4 - FCA night

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Ovation! show choir performs at St. Mary for their Elementary School Tour.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ovation! starts off new year with energy, high hopes

Shreya Chandran
Activities Co-Editor

Under the direction of newcomer Johnny Parezo, the show choir has been preparing for their season with a new show.

"In our show this year, we take you on a journey which many young performers can relate to - working to make it into the spotlight," said Johnny Parezo, the show choir director.

The girls' hair is done in multiple tiny curls and the costumes and makeup are bright, glittery and attention-catching. This is all done on purpose, to create a specific aesthetic.

"There is a big trend in show choir to bring more theatricality into the show with individualized costumes, props and sets. We touch on this, without the props and sets. Our costumes,

hair and makeup are big and bold - giving some characteristics from Broadway shows," said Parezo.

It's not just the look of the team that helps them do so well; they also work very hard. Show choir held a retreat over Christmas break in addition to practicing every day in school and every Thursday night.

"I think we are a great team. We work very hard and give a lot of time and effort to reach our goals," said Parezo.

Show choir, while not only fun for those in it, has many other benefits for later in life.

"I'm going to college next year and I know that my experience with show choir will help me to be comfortable," said senior Shaylee Wilcox.

As they prepare for each com-

ing competition, they try to keep things in perspective.

"My biggest goal for Ovation! this year is to come home after each competition knowing that we gave our all and left it all on the stage. If we win trophies because of that - even better," said Parezo.

"In show choir, it's more about performing your best and having fun with this group that becomes your family than trophies and ribbons," said junior Anna Picasso.

Future opportunities to see Ovation! perform include the "Executive Showcase" at Roosevelt on Jan. 31, Preview Night on Feb. 3, "Best of Show" at Washington on March 14, and the Final Show Choir Concert on March 30 in the Lorang Theater.

Pep band undergoes changes, renews enthusiasm at events

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

Under the direction of new band director Ben Koch, the O'Gorman pep band has undergone several changes this year.

Previously, pep band was required for all Wind Ensemble and Concert Band members. This year, pep band is an optional, extracurricular activity.

"While pep band is a normal function of the marching band, it's not really a normal function of the concert band," said Koch. "An extracurricular group is better suited to have more regular mem-

bership and to rehearse more efficiently outside of the concert band rehearsal setting."

The pep band mostly performs at boys and girls home basketball games and wrestling matches.

"The best athletic events always involve music," said Koch. "There's nothing better than when the team is playing well in a tight game and the band is energizing the crowd, especially the student section, to support them."

The athletes share his sentiments. "They help create a better game environment," said senior

basketball player Braxton Elliott. "The music is really loud before the game and helps us get prepared. It encourages everybody to cheer."

The pep band consists of about 40 members in grades 9-12.

In the past, the band would play for the first part of the game, but usually left after half time or third quarter. Now they play for the entire game.

"It's important to stay for the entire game to support the team during any lulls," said sophomore band member Nick McCoy.

Some of the band members' favorite selections include "Zoot

A View to a Thrill: Bond themed Formal set for The District

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

This Presidents' weekend O'Gorman students will be celebrating their annual Winter Formal. This year's Formal theme is James Bond.

"One of the hardest parts of planning Formal is choosing a theme," said student council events committee advisor, Doug Basche. "This year's theme will be really fun. We plan on having balloon bouquets on the tables and a lot of cool decorations."

The theme isn't the only thing making this year's Formal stand out. O'Gorman will also be hosting Formal at the District.

"The Arena, where we held the last two Formals, was booked so we decided to look at other locations," said Basche. "I think having it at The District will be fun. It's a really neat place."

Students are also excited about the change in venue.

"I think the Formal being held at The District is really exciting," said sophomore Michael Sulaiman. "It's a great venue and will provide a really big and fun space."

While senior and events committee member Andrea Veloira shared in Basche and Sulaiman's excitement, she also wanted students to remember the purpose of the event - to enjoy time with friends and classmates.

"Although I've never been to The District, I've heard nothing but good things about it," said Veloira. "I think everyone is really

excited for a new place. However, when it really gets down to it I think what really matters is the people who you are with, not the place you're at."

Veloira also had some Formal advice for underclassmen.

"Don't stress over little things like having a date or finding a date; once you get to the actual dance all that doesn't matter," said Veloira. "Just have a good time with your friends and make the most of your night."

"Just have a good time with your friends and make the most of your night."

- Andrea Veloria

Students can also expect to see a photo booth again this year and also enjoy music provided by Dakota Entertainment. Because of the new venue and the other expenses for the event, tickets are being sold at \$15, a price that Sulaiman said he found reasonable.

"A lot of money goes into the venue and the DJ since it's at The District," said Sulaiman. "Besides, the memories of Formal are far greater than the \$15 you'll pay."

Formal will be held Sunday, Feb. 15 from 8-11 p.m. Students are able to purchase tickets in Basche's room until Feb. 11. Students are allowed to bring a guest that does not attend O'Gorman but must acquire a guest pass.



ABBY BAKA / KNIGHT SCROLL

The O'Gorman pep band plays at a boys basketball game. The band consists of 40 members in grades 9-12.

Suit Riot," "Tequila," and "Seven Nation Army."

Koch is excited to take suggestions from students regarding

new songs for the band to play. "We really want to know what's going to make the student section get up and dance," said Koch.

Bubble Boy bounces onto stage

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

This year the O'Gorman One Act is the musical comedy *Bubble Boy: The Musical*, by Cinco Paul and Ken Daurio.

Bubble Boy is the story of teenager Jimmy Livingston, played by senior Christian Heisler, who has an immuno-deficiency and is forced by his overbearing mother, junior Emmy Bear, to stay in an antiseptic isolation bubble. When Jimmy discovers that his dream girl, Chloe, played by junior Taylor Billion, is getting married, he builds himself a bubble suit and embarks on a cross country journey to win over the love of his life.

"It's a great story about escaping your bubble and fighting for what's important in life," said senior Bailey Lauret, who plays the Bubble Boy's father.

The show contains many large and small group musical numbers as well as several duets. Junior Josie Johnson is in charge of choreography.

"Her experience and ability to teach are beyond her years," said One Act director Teresa Fester. "She is a joy to have as a choreographer."

The pit band is being directed by Kevin Humke, who is also

serving as the show's technical director. The band is small, consisting of Sam Putnam on guitar, Nick McCoy and Annie Simons on keyboard and Christopher Schall on drums. Schall is also a cast member.

As the show is to be performed at the State One Act festival, sets and costumes have to be fairly simple because the cast and crew only have 45 minutes to set up, perform and strike their production.

Senior Graham Sudenga's father, Steve Sudenga, is helping to build the bubble suit, and senior Kimberly Schulte is serving as the student tech coordinator.

The set is designed to look like a cartoon. It will consist of blow up furniture and cardboard cutouts.

"We are trying something new with the set design," said Fester. "The whole show is kind of caricature style, as the story itself is quite creative."

Much of the cast will be dressed as bikers and hippies. Kendra Dexter is in charge of the costumes which will reflect the 1970s era in which the play is set.

"[She] has once again found a way to make costumes extraordinary," said Fester.

The annual South Dakota



LIESEL JULSRUD / KNIGHT SCROLL

The *Bubble Boy* cast rehearses one of the show's many musical numbers. The show was performed for an audience on Feb. 3 and will be performed at the South Dakota State One Act Play Festival.

State One Act Play Festival is held at different schools across the state. This year, for the first time, the festival will be held at O'Gorman. The festival runs from Feb. 5-7.

"We are dealing with 45 schools that will all have times to load and unload sets, [use] dressing rooms, and [be critiqued] by

judges," said Fester. "We have to host nine judges, directors, and members of the SDHSAA as well. We also have to manage all 45 casts' lights and sound."

Despite the challenges of hosting the festival, the Bubble Boy cast is excited to be performing on their home stage.

"It's a relief," said junior

Emmy Bear. "It's nice to be able to rehearse on the stage we are going to perform on. It will be interesting to see other schools perform on our stage."

The show was performed for a paying audience on Feb. 3 as part of a performing arts showcase with the show choirs.

Parks and Rec end in sight

Abby Baka
Entertainment Editor

Few things in life can give us unconditional joy, but one thing that always puts a smile on my face is NBC's *Parks and Recreation*. With its perpetually happy endings and loveable characters, *Parks and Rec* is the bright star in the middle of my week, and now it is coming to an end.

Parks and Rec is the delightful story of Leslie Knope, Deputy Director of the Parks Department in Pawnee, Ind. Leslie and her kooky gang of fellow public servants work tirelessly to improve their beloved home town despite the many beguiling obstacles they face.

Now, after six glorious seasons, the series has begun airing its seventh, and final, season. As fans of *The Office* and *Breaking Bad* know, the end of a beloved television series is a very emotional time. A farewell to *Parks and Rec* is not just a farewell to a TV show. It is a farewell to a mini horse, the world's best waffles, Jerry/Garry/



NBC STUDIOS / PRESS PHOTO

Parks and Recreation Deputy Director Leslie Knope enjoys a waffle while recovering from the flu. Knope is played by former *Saturday Night Live* star Amy Poehler.

Terry bashing, an awesome rock band, a villainous candy company and the amusing antics of a cast of the world's best government workers.

The seventh season, which began airing on Jan. 13, takes place three years in the future. While technology and the *Jason Bourne* franchise have changed drastically in this futuristic world, the important things are the same. Leslie and Ron, after

experiencing a bit of a rough patch in their relationship, are still friends, Andy and April are still the world's most perfect couple and Tom is still ballin' in the restaurant business.

The endearing and amusing antics of these loveable characters makes it difficult to say goodbye. It is with teary eyes and a broken heart that I look to Feb. 24, the day *Parks and Recreation* ends.

Grand Budapest, Birdman lead pack; lack of diversity at Oscars stirs controversy

Liesel Julsrud
Activities Co-Editor

Neil Patrick Harris will host the 87th Academy Awards, which will take place on Feb. 22.

Among the nominees, *Birdman* and *The Grand Budapest Hotel* lead the field with nine nominations each. *The Imitation Game*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch, follows close behind with eight.

The race for best actor is incredibly close. The nominees for Best Actor in a Leading Role are Eddie Redmayne in *The Theory of Everything*, Steve Carell in *Foxcatcher*, Bradley Cooper in *American Sniper*, Benedict Cumberbatch in *The Imitation Game* and Michael Keaton in *Birdman*.

The nominees for Best Actress in a Leading Role are comprised of Felicity Jones in *The Theory of Everything*, Julianne Moore in *Still Alice*, Reese With-

erspoon in *Wild*, Rosamund Pike in *Gone Girl* and Marion Cotillard for *Two Days, One Night*.

Although the current nominees are an accurate representation of the incredible talent in today's film industry, there is controversy. The black entertainment industry has condemned the Academy for its racial bias.

This year will be the second in over a decade where an African American actor/actress is not represented in the nominees for the four acting categories. The lack of diversity within this year's contenders appalls some.

However, the Civil Rights Movement movie, *Selma* is one of the eight movies up for best picture. The other nominees include *The Imitation Game*, *American Sniper*, *Boyhood*, *Whiplash*, *Birdman*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel* and *The Theory of Everything*.

Jolie explores horrors of war

Grace Wallin
Sports Editor

Angelina Jolie directs and produces the heroic drama *Unbroken* adapted from the widely popular biography by Laura Hillenbrand. The film chronicles the harrowing true story of Louis Zamperini: Olympian Athlete, U.S. Air Force Bombardier, Prisoner of War and World War II survivor.

Despite the collaboration of acclaimed screenwriters such as William Nicholson, Richard LaGravenese and the Coen Brothers, the film barely scratches the surface of an extraordinary life and offers little insight into the man whose character was vastly more intricate than that which the movie depicts.

One of the film's chief missteps is to portray Louis as indestructible, thereby losing the human aspect of his spirit. Jolie concentrated so intensely on the gruesome treatment inflicted upon POWs in WWII that she fails to dedicate any time to Zam-

perini's post-war journey and the incredible events that would have him come to forgive his captors.

This along with the use of time shifts from present to past and back again give the conventional narrative somewhat of a disconnected flow and prevent the audience from forming an attachment to the realness of the story. This connection cannot be built solely on the physical torment that Zamperini endured, but also the deep emotional trials he had to overcome.

Ultimately, it lacks the underlying truth of the resilience of the human spirit that is captured in Hillenbrand's book; Louis did suffer, he did lose hope and he did experience vengefulness, bitterness and hatred. What makes the story inspiring is that he overcame these things. In the film adaptation, we never get to see him experience them.

However, apart from the book, *Unbroken* does deliver one of the best technically crafted



UNIVERSAL PICTURES / PRESS PHOTO

Jack O'Connell stars as Louis Zamperini in the film *Unbroken*.

films of the year, with stunning visual elements and a superb sound department. Also notable is Jack O'Connell's breakthrough performance as Zam-

perini. O'Connell's depiction of the atrocities endured by POWs in the war with Japan is powerful and engaging.

Although the film does not

give a complete picture of Zamperini's unforgettable life, it certainly does give him the respect and honor he deserves as a true American hero.



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Wrestlers overcome inexperience to notch wins under new coach

Cheyenne Chontos
Editor-in-Chief

As wrestling season comes to an end, the O'Gorman Knight wrestling team is hoping to end strong and continue improving.

"Thus far the team has improved each time we compete," said wrestling coach Matt Lynch. "The team has a lot of guts, and we can't say enough about each guy and the enthusiasm, hard work and dedication they all have contributed to O'Gorman wrestling."

While Lynch said the team continues to work hard, he also said that the team's biggest weakness is its inexperience.

"We overall have a young team," said Lynch. "We only have two seniors, four juniors, four sophomores, three freshmen and one eighth grader. But the team has really been gaining a lot of experience this season, and that has helped us improve a lot. For next season we'd like to get even more experience on the mat and also work on technique."

Despite the lack of experience, the team has seen victories.

"The most exciting moment

for everyone on the team was probably [sophomore] T.J. Schaefer's defensive pin against Sisseton at Watertown," said senior wrestler Ryan O'Connell. "The last defensive pin I can remember was by senior Dylan Bakken my freshman year. T.J.'s pin ended up being the deciding points in the dual and we won."

Lynch agreed that duals have been one of the most exciting parts of this season.

"The guys really do a great job at lifting each other up in the dual format in particular," said Lynch. "There have been a few matches that have come down to the wire; we've won some and we've lost some, but our guys give everything they have."

With the end of the season approaching, Lynch encourages the O'Gorman students to show their support and encouragement for the team.

"We could use all the support we can get from the student body," said Lynch. "Come out to watch us. We know the guys would greatly appreciate it."

The wrestling state tournament will be held Feb. 27 and 28 in Sioux Falls.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Senior Dalee Stene dribbles the ball versus her Rapid City Stevens opponent. The Lady Knights beat Stevens 61-52.

Lady Knights find stride, dominate in-state rivals

Grace Wallin
Opinion Editor

After opening their season against Brandon Valley with a convincing 74 to 28 win, the Lady Knights have continued to show why they are ranked number one with several key wins. On Jan. 20 the Lady Knights defeated the Yankton Gazelles by a score of 61-20.

Facing a tough schedule in the last half of the regular sea-

son, the Lady Knights remain confident yet focused on the task at hand. "We are striving to just get better every single day," said head coach Kent Kolsrud. "We want to continually improve and to be playing our best come tournament time."

The team's unique blend of height and athleticism make them a formidable opponent. The frontcourt alone consists of heights of 6'1, 6'0 and 6'3 and most players participate in mul-

tiiple sports. "This year's team is special because we have played together for a long time, and we have great team chemistry," said senior Jess Mieras. Mieras led the Lady Knights with 20 points and nine rebounds against Yankton.

"Our greatest challenge is the expectations we put on ourselves," said Mieras. "Our goals are to get better everyday and to hang a banner at the end of the season."

Streaky Knights set sights on state tournament berth

Samantha Lenz
Sports Editor

The O'Gorman Knights basketball team is sitting at 8-4 and ranked third in class AA. The Knights took a trip out west for a matchup against the two Rapid City high schools.

Against Rapid City Central the Knights edged the Cobblers at the buzzer. The Cobblers dominated the fourth quarter until the final seconds when senior Braxton Elliott finished out the game with a three point buzzer beater lifting the Knights to a 58-57 win.

"We've been focusing on execution. We are as talented as any team in the state when we execute our plays," said Elliott.

Senior Davis Cowan also paced the Knights with 14 points. In the game, O'Gorman hit seven 3-pointers, including three by sophomore Matt Cartwright, adding 13 points.

The next day, the Knights faced Rapid City Stevens. The Knights took the lead 22-17 at the half, and used the momentum to finish out the game with a 45-30 win. Cowan led the way for the Knights with 13 points on the night.



KNIGHT LEGEND

Junior Ben Lauer drives to the basket against Rapid City Stevens. The Knights won 41-27.

"I thought it was a great win because we did it with defense and the scoring was really balanced," said Cowan.

In the next few weeks, as the Knights continue facing some tough competition including many of the in-town rivals.

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Photo Survey

“What are your plans for Valentine’s Day?”



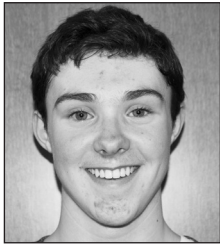
“Spend it with my kids”
- Mrs. Brose



“Show choir concert”
- Bailey Lauret



“Netflix is bae”
- Katie Messeler



“Eating a pizza by myself”
- Sam Billion



“Watch *The Notebook* and cry”
- Emily Kassing

Be smart with your gas savings

Liesel Julsrud
Activities Co-Editor

With the recently lowering of gas prices, it is easy to take advantage of the situation. Most would think that this is an opportunity to go on the pointless drives that we all take for the sole purpose of listening to music or to go to the coffeshop more often to “study.”

In all reality, each one of us should take this as an opportunity to save up for something special, whether it be an item or a moment.

One thing that we could all do as high school students is to save up. Seniors should especially take this into consideration with all the expenses being thrown at us. It is easy to splurge.

Many of us are busy individuals with jobs and extracurricular activities, so we often times resort to picking up the infamous Starbucks coffee or McDonalds. Less-than-ten-dollar meals might seem more than appealing, but when you take all of those expenses together, it is incredibly expensive. Instead, look towards cutting the frappuccino or double cheeseburger to once a week.

We can also all get caught up when open campus rolls around the corner. For two weeks I used tank after tank of gas to get my daily fix of Starbucks - and the barista knew my order.

Through the three weeks that students are granted open campus, we shift into the mindset that we are basically free from the



Liesel Julsrud

confines of the more than questionable school lunches. Because let’s be real, it’s 2015 and chicken patties have not gone through a revolutionary change since elementary school. Instead, use the same amount of gas and try to go

home to prepare your own lunch. This will help avoid expensive Qdoba bills and save more than you think. Your bank account (or your parents’) will thank you.

And when most people can fill up their tanks with \$15-20, the money flow will be greater so you can buy something you have wanted for awhile.

On the flip side, another option is to take advantage of the gas prices. Fill up the tank, and go on an adventure. Many people that partook in the survey answered that they would use this opportunity to go on vacation with family or spend time with friends.

There are beautiful areas right outside of Sioux Falls that some of us have never heard of (I for

one know this to be true). Good Earth State Park and the Pali-sades are a beautiful option to go for a hike this time of year. Each park is conveniently located less than 30 miles outside of Sioux Falls.

So with some friends - and GPS - you can make a great day of what would otherwise be yet another Netflix marathon. And you never know, you can get a good Instagram picture out of it.

Before you jump at this, notice that ironically enough gas prices are already getting higher. BUT, with the right amount of determination, we can all take advantage of a great opportunity. Gas prices being this low can be a gateway to an unexpected journey.



In & Out

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| Influenza | Ebola |
| Spring Fever | White Christmas |
| Wing Stop | Bdubs |
| Valentine’s Day | Self Esteem |
| <i>The Interview</i> | North Korea’s Pride |
| Kahoot | Jeopardy |
| Sports Scandals | Upstanding Athletes |
| 2015 | 2014 |
| War Movies | Romantic Comedies |
| Joggers | Baggy Sweatpants |
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